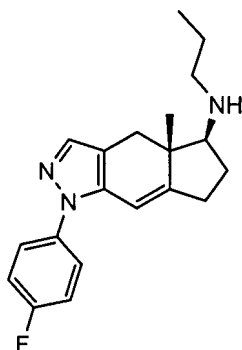


Amendments to the Specification:

Please replace the paragraph beginning at page 57, line 2, with the following replacement paragraph:

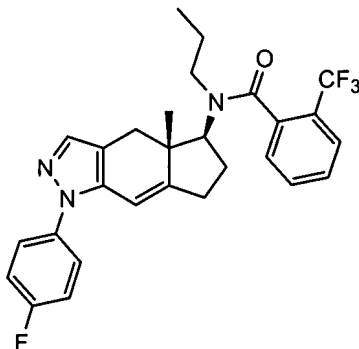
EXAMPLE 126



COMPOUND A (250 mg, 0.88 mmol) was diluted into CH₂Cl₂ (11 mL), and treated with *n*-propylamine hydrochloride (842 mg, 8.87 mmol), diisopropylethylamine (2.4 mL, 13.3 mmol), and followed by sodium triacetoxyborohydride (376 mg, 1.77 mmol). The reaction mixture was maintained at 23 °C for 15 h. The mixture was then partitioned between NaHCO_{3(aq)} and CH₂Cl₂, and the organic phase was dried over anhydrous sodium sulfate and concentrated in vacuo. The crude product was either used directly in subsequent reactions or purified by flash chromatography (Biotage BIOTAGE® 40S, SiO₂, 1:9:90 NH₄OH-MeOH-CHCl₃) to provide the product which was characterized by ¹H NMR, HPLC and mass spectrometry (m/z: 326 (M⁺+1)).

Please replace the paragraph beginning at page 57, line 13, with the following replacement paragraph:

EXAMPLE 127



EXAMPLE 126 (2 g, 6.15 mmol) was diluted into CH₂Cl₂ (31 mL) and treated with diisopropylethylamine (2.3 mL, 12.3 mmol), followed by 2-(trifluoromethyl)benzoyl chloride (1.4 mL, 9.23 mmol). The reaction mixture was maintained at 23 °C for 2 h. The mixture was then partitioned between NaHCO_{3(aq)} and CH₂Cl₂, the organic phase dried over anhydrous sodium sulfate, concentrated in vacuo and purified by flash chromatography (**Biotage BIOTAGE®** 65M, SiO₂, 30% EtOAc-hexane) to provide the product which was characterized by ¹H NMR, HPLC and mass spectrometry (m/z: 498 (M⁺+1)).

Please replace the paragraph beginning at page 72, line 6, with the following replacement paragraph:

GR Ligand Binding Assay

For the hGRI ligand binding assay, cytosols were prepared from recombinant baculovirus expressed receptors. Frozen cell pellets were dounce homogenized in ice cold KPO₄ buffer (10mM KPO₄, 20mM sodium molybdate, 1mM EDTA, 5mM DTT and complete protease inhibitor tablets from Boehringer Mannheim) with a “B” plunger. The homogenates were centrifuged at 35,000 x g for 1 h at 4°C in a JA-20 rotor. The IC₅₀s were determined by incubating the cytosols at a final concentration of 2.5nM [1,2,4,6,7-³H] Dexamethasone in the

presence of increasing concentrations (10^{-11} to 10^{-6}) of cold dexamethasone or the ligands at 4°C for 24 h. Bound and free were separated by a gel filtration assay, (Geissler et al., personal communication). Half of the reaction was added to a gel filtration plate (MILLIPORE) containing ~~sephadex~~ SEPHADEX[®] G-25 beads that was previously equilibrated with KPO₄ buffer containing 1mg/ml BSA and centrifuged at 1000 x g for 5 min.[[.]] The reaction plate was centrifuged at 1000 x g for 5 min. and the reactions were collected in a second 96-well plate and scintillation cocktail was added and counted in (Wallac) double coincidence beta counter. The IC₅₀ values were calculated using a 4-parameter fit program. The compounds of this invention demonstrated a range of GR affinity in the above assay with IC₅₀ values between 10 μM and 1 nM.